

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 13 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 10 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Nguyen in the March 20, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action states that claims 10 and 11 recite allowable subject matter. Applicant appreciates this indication of allowability and bases the above amendments on this indication. Specifically, the subject matter of claim 10 is incorporated into independent claim 6, and the subject matter of claim 11 is incorporated into independent claims 1 and 13. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,937,066 to Gennaro et al. (hereinafter "Gennaro") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,822 to Jakobsson and U.S. Patent No. 5,473,691 to Menezes et al. (hereinafter "Menezes"). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action both rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and states that claims 10 and 11 recite allowable subject matter. During a brief telephone conference with Examiner Nguyen on March 20, 2008, the Examiner indicated that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is improper, and affirmed that claims 10 and 11 recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, as the confirmed allowable subject matter of claims 10 and 11 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 6 and 13, the above-enumerated independent claims are allowable.

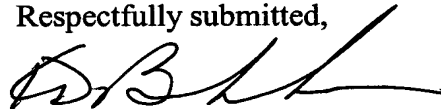
For at least the above reasons, the combination of Gennaro, Jakobsson and Menezes cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of features as positively recited in pending independent claims 1, 6 and 13. Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 12 also would not have been suggested by the combination of references for at least their dependence on allowable independent claims, as enumerated above, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections of the Office Action are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9, 12 and 13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kirk D. Berkhimer
Registration No. 59,874

JAO:ARK/caa

Date: April 4, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 24-0037</p>
--